

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item E-3
May 25, 2010
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Donald D. Slesnick, II
Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Commissioner Maria Anderson
Commissioner Rafael “Ralph” Cabrera, Jr.
Commissioner Wayne “Chip” Withers

City Staff

City Manager, Patrick Salerno
City Attorney, Elizabeth Hernandez
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Sallye Jude, Chairperson of Green Committees for the Garden Club
Jenny May, Coral Gables Resident and Board Member, “Dream in Green”
Rip Holmes, Coral Gables Resident
Carlos Ruiz de Quevedo, Coral Gables Resident

E-3 [Start: 9:55:22 a.m.]

An Ordinance of the City of Coral Gables Commission creating in accordance with the City Code, Article III, Division 1, Section 2-64, a Green Task Force and setting forth guidelines by which such task force shall be governed and providing for severability, repealer, codification and an effective date.

Mayor Slesnick: E-2 – Mr. Manager; this is an ordinance on first reading.

City Manager Salerno: Thank you Mayor.

Mayor Slesnick: Mr. Clerk, excuse me, Mr. Manager, if I could ask just to hold off on this one second. You all have an item that you are waiting for?

Audience: E-3

Mayor Slesnick: Excuse me, but can we skip to E-3 and that way the Chamber can, and the Garden Club and others that are here for E-3. Mr. Manager, if I would please ask that we take E-3 now out of order, is that alright with you?

City Manager Salerno: Certainly Mayor, certainly. E-3 Mayor and Commissioners, is an ordinance of the City of Coral Gables creating in accordance with the City Code, Article III, Division 1, Section 2-64, a Green Task Force and setting forth guidelines by which such task force shall be governed and providing for severability, repealer, codification and an effective date. Staff has worked on this over the last several months with inputs from Commissioner Anderson, who had raised this issue some time ago, and it was also the subject of discussion at a “green” meeting conducted by Commissioner Cabrera and Commissioner Anderson, that a group of residents thought that this was an appropriate way of focusing the city’s attention and resources on creating an economically sustainable, excuse me, an environmentally sustainable community for our residents and businesses. I’m sure Commissioner Anderson or Commissioner Cabrera may want to add to those comments.

Mayor Slesnick: Ms. Anderson.

Commissioner Anderson: Yes, I wanted to thank the City Manager for his help on that, and I also want to thank the City Clerk for e-mailing everyone and contacting folks that had been at the meeting in February. I think Commissioner Cabrera would agree that we had a very enthusiastic crowd at the end of February here in the Commission Chambers to talk about green initiatives, and there were a lot of great ideas and a lot of enthusiasm, and based on that and based on the fact that I think the city needs to address these issues sooner rather than later, it really is a product of all that and it covers the things that were discussed there, and talks about incentives, it talks about sustainability, it talks about citizen engagement, it talks about developing strategies for a variety of different things that are within that realm. So, I’m very pleased and thankful, and I’d be happy to make a motion or have a discussion on the item. I move it.

Mayor Slesnick: Ms. Anderson moves, Mr. Cabrera you want to second?

Commissioner Cabrera: I second it for discussion.

Mayor Slesnick: Mr. Cabrera seconds. Ms. Anderson, were you finished with your remarks?

Commissioner Anderson: Yes, I’m good.

Mayor Slesnick: Mr. Cabrera.

Commissioner Cabrera: I had questions regarding Section 3 of the proposed duties or responsibilities or tasks associated with this task force. If you read Section 3, and I’ll take the liberty of reading for everyone in the audience; it says, “Section 3: Membership – that the task force shall be comprised of nine members, eight of which shall be appointed by the Commission including one Landscape Architect, one Professional Planner, one person a person with a demonstrated interest in historic preservation, one LEED AP Engineer, one LEED AP Architect, one member of the University of Miami, one member

from the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, and one resident from the City of Coral Gables, and one resident from the City of Coral Gables who shall be appointed by the City Manager. So I guess that the reason I'm questioning this is, you know, as we appoint Boards and Committees, we always try to come up with ways of getting the right personnel on these Boards. I know I've struggled with it; when I first created the City-wide Traffic Advisory Board for you all to support me on and ultimately we approved it as a body, what I tried to do is to create areas of the city that could have representation on traffic related issues, and we came up with nine districts or zones, and I literally got them from the Police Department, who was able to provide me with a pretty good understanding of these zones. So when in effect we had issues affecting any one of these areas, we could very easily forward the information. I know Commissioner Withers used to have an appointment on that Board who used to do a phenomenal job when he would forward the information to him. Chip, I don't remember his name....

Commissioner Withers: It was Ralph, wasn't it?

Commissioner Cabrera: No, no, you remember who it was?

Commissioner Withers: I do have several folks, who did that, but you know Ralph, recently when we get all the minutes of the Commission meetings all that's dropped off.

Commissioner Cabrera: Oh, but you don't remember the person's name?

Commissioner Withers: No.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK, I don't either, so forgive me for not knowing that. Anyway, I didn't mean to put you on the spot. But back to my point, we struggled with that, quite frankly we struggled, and I've had to stay vigilant on this issue to make sure we have the right people in the right zones, and what have you.

Commissioner Withers: I remember – Chris Morrison.

Commissioner Cabrera: That's it, Chris Morrison, thank you, and he chaired it, and he did a phenomenal job, so Chris, if you are watching out there we apologize. But back to my point, I am not certain I am going to be able to find an LEED AP Engineer to serve as an appointee; I'm not sure – I don't even know what it is, I'll be very honest, I don't. I can teach him something about insurance, but I can't teach him anything about what he or she may do, but the point here is that I feel very strongly that we should have representation from the Coral Gables Chamber, we should have representation from the University of Miami, I welcome those two very interested organizations to be part of this, I'm glad that the Chamber has shown some interest in this matter, but to my point I'm just not certain that I can go around town looking for professional planners; I think I have a lot of friends that have demonstrated interest in historic preservation over the years.

Commissioner Withers: You know Ralph, in followup to your observation, I think one of the key disciplines left off of here, which I think if the whole greening effort is going to work, especially with the developers and office buildings, is a LEED Certified Attorney that knows how to write ordinances and bonus language in development projects.

City Attorney Hernandez: And we have several who live in the city.

Commissioner Withers: I know, but we don't have them as one of the disciplines, but I mean if we are trying to encourage developers to go green, it has to be, in my mind, it has to be not just the good of saving the planet, but it has to be a financial reward for them, whether that means more FAR (Floor Area Ratio), or whatever. So I think an attorney who is going to help craft the language is as important as part of the discipline. So I agree, it's going to be hard to put this eight together.

Commissioner Cabrera: It's going to be hard, not only is it going to be hard but then it's going to be hard to maintain it, that's the key here, how do you maintain that?- not during our terms in office, but for the next batch of Commissioners. So, I'm not suggesting that I would not support this as it is today, but I have strong reservations as it relates to....

Mayor Slesnick: But what if we did this, what if we say that there will be nine members, eight of which shall be appointed by the Commission, with the goal of having, in other words, let's make a goal of having each of these disciplines represented.

Commissioner Cabrera: I'm perfectly comfortable with that. Look, my goal here is not to appoint somebody that raised me money during my last reelection, it's to try to get people that are of sound mind who have the willingness....

Mayor Slesnick: If they gave you money they were of sound mind.

Commissioner Cabrera: They may not have been, they may not have been; there are a lot of people that will tell you they were loony. Anyway, the bottom line here is, I'd like to try to achieve this goal, I don't want to take this goal away from the mission of this group, but I just don't want to be pigeon-holed into it, you know.

Commissioner Anderson: Actually I don't disagree. I actually had an e-mail that was very...that was from one of our city residents, actually Mr. Mayor, one of the persons that was at your Roundtable, and you had directed him, he's an architect, Carlos Ruiz; and he said he was going to be here, I don't know if he is or not. He made some interesting suggestions as far as disciplines – also you said an attorney Chip, he mentioned a person that – green construction. So you know, I think all of those are viable suggestions, and I really – the goal is to get good people on here. These are very good categories and certainly we can add to it, and change it around; the goal is to become sustainable and get the community involved.

Mayor Slesnick: One of the thoughts I had too, we have down here one resident from the City of Coral Gables, when in actuality we under our own ordinances, and under our own efforts we've always tried to appoint residents. So I would presume that where we can all of these LEED engineers, and architects and attorneys, where we can will be residents. So I'd like to maybe have us consider changing that one to a representative of the Garden Club, who is one of the principal movers and pushers of this movement, because we have a representative from the Chamber, which is appropriate, and I think a representative of the Garden Club would be something good. So that they would nominate – I take it, Mr. Manager, or whomever I should ask, Madam City Attorney, that the goal here is that the Chamber of Commerce would nominate to the Commission a representative, we would still approve it, and if the Commission agreed with my recommendation, then the Garden Club would nominate someone to us and we would approve it. Is that how you see it working?

Commissioner Cabrera: Yes, I just don't want to hurt people's feelings if, you know, there are recommendations and we don't chose to....

Mayor Slesnick: Absolutely, and I think we've always been – well how do you see it?

Commissioner Cabrera: I don't want to rubber stamp stuff. For example, if the Chamber has someone in mind, I'm sure the Chamber is going to do everything possible to ensure that, that person has the right qualifications. I trust that process. I just don't want to start getting people's names that I've never heard of and then having to make that kind of....but listen, I'm not falling on the sword either, I can work with you.

Mayor Slesnick: No, no, I agree with you. You know, we've had this problem before; we are going to lay out all these things and we are going to sit here and we are going to say, OK, Bill are you doing the engineer this year?- or are you doing the architect? We get ourselves in some of these boxes, so I think that we need to between now at least and second reading, we need to kind of calculate how we can put together this diverse group of people and still keep our sanity while we do it. We'll all sign up for one.

City Manager Salerno: Mayor if I could add. As you commented already just to make perfectly clear, all nine members must be residents of the city, even though they may have expertise in a particular discipline, the ordinance calls for them to be residents in any event.

Commissioner Cabrera: That's section – that's in the qualifications.

Mayor Slesnick: Well that's then somewhat conflicting with this resident of the citizen of Coral Gables.

Commissioner Cabrera: I think it's a double....

Commissioner Anderson: I think what the goal was that there was a list of professional categories or people who are in general specialties that would be more conducive to understanding it; however, it doesn't exclude the resident. Actually I know planners who live in the city, I know LEED Architects who live in the city. So I mean, it's just a variety, but if there are some changes that are reasonable, and I think the one that you made about the Garden Club is absolutely on point. So, I think we can all work with that, but I do think we have them in the city.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I think we have so many professionals....

Commissioner Anderson: We have so many talents.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk:...that meet the specifics, this is going to be the least of our problems, I'm going to tell you right now; we are going to have so many people; we are going to get so many phone calls saying they want to serve, which is a good thing, I mean this is all positive. I personally believe we are going to have...

Mayor Slesnick: We have people in the audience that desire to speak at this public hearing, they are going to need to go out and fill out a card and turn it in, that's our rule, and they are going to have to go fill out a card and give it to the Clerk, be more than happy to take speakers, but we do have a procedure.

Commissioner Withers: Hey Don, can I assume that this is a task force and not a committee, so someone can still serve on another City Board and participate?

Commissioner Anderson: I don't think so. I don't believe.

Commissioner Withers: Is this a committee or a task force?

Commissioner Anderson: You know, I think it's the same function as a committee, its bound by the same regulations, right?

City Attorney Hernandez: Right. When you have put together Blue Ribbon Committees, the chairs of various boards, it's an ad hoc committee of a limited duration, and the resolution provides as such, you sunset the committee, and there is a purpose in that, the various sciences come together and share from their various boards.

Commissioner Withers: So this is a new committee we are forming.

City Attorney Hernandez: Yes.

Commissioner Anderson: That's correct.

Commissioner Withers: And the cost?- do we have an estimated annual cost on this?

Commissioner Anderson: Mr. Manager, do you have that?

City Manager Salerno: I'll be appointing a staff liaison to work with them; there is a provision in the ordinance that will allow, subject to the Commission's approval, for the city to engage advisory consultants or consultant if appropriate, because of the technical aspects of this, this is not a group that simply will be charged because they support green; this is in many ways a very technical group because they will be making recommendations that will affect cost of construction of projects, the building development schedules, and they may be appropriate that they are provided outside expertise. We don't have an in-house expert in green initiatives, that's why there was a section added that says under advisors, that the city may provide qualified professional consultants to serve in an advisory capacity to the task force, that does not mean that the task force can go out and hire anybody, it means the city upon a recommendation or request from the task force would consider such and do so. So it's difficult at this point to put a dollar figure associated with that; the real question here when we did the effective date of this ordinance is October 1st, in conjunction with that if it passes on first reading and second reading in July, I would certainly provide a dollar amount in the proposed budget for you to consider at that time, so you'll be able to make those dollar allocations in conjunction with the Budget Workshop, and/or hearings that will take place in September prior to the effective date. So if this Commission is so inclined, or the Commission could be inclined to say that there will be no dollars for outside assistance in that regard. I'm just trying to make sure the Commission understands that in-house we are limited with technical capabilities in this regard, and that's why the board has a good dose of expertise associated with that, that we hope to gather from the community individuals that have certainly an interest in the first place or they wouldn't have these designations, but also they have the technical qualifications to provide input to the Commission.

Commissioner Withers: Well you know, saying that maybe we should take a different track on this, I mean, maybe the model should be that we go out to RFP, we interview firms that do exactly what – I'm not against public input, OK, but it's going to take months for this group to get up and going, to start rolling out initiatives, I mean, it's going to take, you know, I guarantee I'll be gone from this Commission before we start awarding bonuses or whatever to developers for office, whatever we do; maybe we take a different track and that we go out and RFP or RFQ or RFA, a couple state-of-the-art up and coming firms that do exactly what these nine folks or eight folks are going to do. The cost of that hiring this firm is borne by the developer in some kind of fee structure that will be returned to them over a ten or twenty year amortization timeframe and some kind of bonus repay or something like that.

City Attorney Hernandez: You can actually do both.

City Manager Salerno: There would be individual incentives, that's one of the main aspects of these initiatives, is that there are incentives associated with the development community proceeding in a green fashion...

Commissioner Withers: I understand that.

City Manager Salerno: ...So their incentives really are not going to be coming – I haven't seen a community go that route, they try to incentivize developers and owners to go green by giving them benefits in the development process. So the cost of the consultant, there are certainly ways of adding some of those costs or a portion of those costs into our fee structure, but I thought the premise here was to get the community involved, and to have them participate, and partner with the city, and give them an avenue, an out, and a way of assisting, as Vice Mayor Kerdyk said we have a wealth of talent in this community and we need to tap into that, I would suggest. I agree with you that would be another way of approaching it, but I think we can do both what you're suggesting.

Commissioner Anderson: Chip, there was a lot of enthusiasm at that – I realize what you are trying to say, you are trying to be expedited, be efficient about it; but I think if we short circuit that public process there's a lot of folks that who really want to participate, be involved. I think we need to be guided by somebody who's a professional to guide the group because as we do up here too, sometimes we go off on tangents and things that are not reasonable or unfeasible, and I think we can channel the energy of folks with somebody who can help guide them.

Commissioner Withers: Maria, I agree with you 110 percent, and that is the very last thing on my mind is to short circuit or cut public opinion or quell excitement or whatever, but not that we are late jumping into the game on this green thing, but...

Commissioner Cabrera: But we are, we are.

Commissioner Withers: But when you travel from west coast to east coast those folks are a decade ahead of us a lot of the time, and the templates are already there for, I don't want to share a personal experience, but the templates are already there for a lot of things that I think are going to take us a year, two years to develop; and all I'm saying is, look, if the timeline is one that we are willing to work through it and again, we might end up with a better product, I'm just saying there is a lot of stuff that's already out there, that's already been codified, and put into play, and legislation is already there, and bonuses are already there, and putting water recapture units on top of air conditioners to use the water, that's already out there; maybe we should tap into that.

Commissioner Anderson: From my perspective, I don't think we need to reinvent the wheel; I think we need to grab all those things that you said.

Commissioner Cabrera: Prioritize them.

Commissioner Anderson: Yes, and bring the good examples from best practices from other cities that are working, absolutely, we don't need to reinvent anything.

Commissioner Cabrera: And to piggyback on you all conversation, nothing says that we as a member of this legislative quasi-judicial body can't bring up some of those great templates, and move them forward. How many of us during the last nine years have moved some traffic related issues forward without necessarily the Traffic Advisory Board? I can go from Ms. Anderson all the way to Commissioner Withers and give you examples of how you have positively affected traffic related issues throughout the city because you took interest in that particular item, whether someone came to you or whether you saw a need for it, bottom line is I don't think that's going to keep us doing from what we want to do, but I hear you, I hear you, and you know what?- you are absolutely right. We are kind of behind the 8 ball and we're a little bit lagging from what other communities are doing.

Commissioner Anderson: I understand that.

Mayor Slesnick: OK, we are going to go to public comment and Mr. Manager as a suggestion a lot of times when we have public items for discussion people come specifically for those, and they therefore know the rules, but maybe a note in our agenda above public hearings directing people that if they care to speak that they should pick up and fill out a speaker card and turn it into the...

City Manager Salerno: Be glad to do that Mayor.

Mayor Slesnick: Sallye Jude, 200 Edgewater, and by the way, I'd ask you all if you haven't to read the back, you've got three minutes, OK, or less.

Ms. Jude: I don't need that long. I do think that you are as aware as I am that Florida is behind the nation in being green, and my goal is to see Coral Gables lead Florida in being the greenest city out there. In my work as Chairperson of Green Committees for the Garden Club and for the Villagers, in the last two years I've just seen a tremendous increase in enthusiasm, and interest, and really feeling like they don't have the opportunities to be as green as they can. I also am doing a LEED certified rehab of a historic house that I'm going to move to, and I have had the experience of being in the National Trust for Historic Preservation green meetings and LEED meetings for a number of years. I think also that some of the incentives are already there because the benefits that the person receives from following these guidelines, so I don't think we have to think so much that we need to offer great benefits, the benefits are built in, and that's something for us to consider, but I am very enthusiastic about moving forward on this ordinance. Thank you.

Mayor Slesnick: Thank you Sallye.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you.

Mayor Slesnick: Jenny May.

Ms. May: Good morning everybody. Jenny May, I'm just here as – I'm on the Board of "Dream in Green" and also a resident of Coral Gables, and I am here just to say that I completely agree with this ordinance, I think it's something that we need to consider especially since there are other cities already on the wagon doing the green initiatives, I can name them: the City of Doral, City of Cutler Ridge, I can name them all the way through. City of Coral Gables needs to step up and really gets this task force finally going. There are, as Commissioner Kerdyk is saying, I don't think we are going to have a problem within our city to find professionals, I mean, we have one right here who's a qualified professional to be on this committee. So I am here just to say that I definitely would love for you all to approve this ordinance, it needs to be done. Thank you.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: By the way Jenny has been talking to me for about two years, shame on me for that (laughter).

Commissioner Cabrera: I want us all to be clear, I'm supporting this as well, I mean, I supported Ms. Anderson on this issue, what I don't want us to lose sight of is, I don't want to be pigeon-holed. I know we may have lots of talented people, but I may not know them, and generally I like to appoint people that I have some personal relationship with, and I'm sure if I stopped and looked at my outlook contacts list, I would find three, four, five people that would do that; I'm just looking for a way not to pigeon hole ourselves, and so Mr. Slesnick probably made a phenomenal recommendation early on when you said the primary goal or you said the ultimate goal would be to do this, but it would not put us in a situation where we would be in a predicament. I mean, look at our Planning Board; our Planning Board has no set criteria for members to sit on it, and we've had members on that Board that were all attorney at one time. We've had members on that Board where the majority of them were all architects. So you know, we don't do it there, I'm not sure it would be wise to do it here.

Mayor Slesnick: And for those people who wonder why some of us have these discussions is because we have another Board where we are required, and we've had these discussions that go on like whose appointments up, what is the thing that's open.

Commissioner Cabrera: We've got two Boards like that.

Commissioner Anderson: But you know, and I agree, I think we shouldn't be pigeon-holed, but I think within – those are the qualities that we would like on a Board; within that I think you can expand, but I think we have to look for – we have to be aware that this requires a kind of special mindset. Within all those parameters we can include other folks....I know, I agree.

Mayor Slesnick: Oh, I agree with the goals.

Commissioner Cabrera: You know what ultimately?- ultimately if we have indigestion with someone that we are about to appoint to a Board, we ultimately have to approve it anyway, so it would go through an approval process on this Commission. I don't know about the rest of you, but in the nine years I've been here, I have never seen us rubber stamp someone, we really – some of us have taken a strong position, whether its personal or professional against a particular person serving on a Board, and your vote has been cast, and that's perfectly fine that's why we live in this country. So I just once again, I would like to take your approach to amending the ordinance, to have that as a goal...

Mayor Slesnick: I agree.

Commissioner Cabrera:...but if Ms. Anderson really feels strongly about this, I don't want her to think that I'm trying to be an obstructionist on this issue.

Commissioner Anderson: No, I don't think so; I don't take it that way at all. I think that we can do some amendments, but I would caution us when we bring it back not to lose sight of some of the categories that I think are absolutely critical to that, I think we do have flexibilities in those areas to include some of the things that were mentioned here today.

Commissioner Cabrera: Would it be objectionable to you or agreeable to you when we make these appointments we include everyone's resume, and if in fact we have some concerns about someone then that gives us the opportunity to be able to ask a few questions and get a better clarification.

Commissioner Anderson: Sure, I don't have any problem. I want this to be successful.

Commissioner Cabrera: Me too. I'm with you.

Mayor Slesnick: We have some more people to present; we have some hyper people in the audience thinking we are going to overlook them or something.

Commissioner Cabrera: No, we are not going to do that.

Mayor Slesnick: Rip Holmes.

Mr. Holmes: Hi, thank you for the honor for being able to address you. You all know, I've been back in this area for twelve years, and quite honestly I can't think of a better moment, a greater time to be proud of Coral Gables and its government than right now. All of us know that we are facing an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico of epic proportions, and I think it's a credit to our City Manager that this is before us now, I think it's a credit to each one of you, especially a credit to Commissioner Anderson whose been a leader in this field, and I think it's something we can all be proud of. This is our shining moment; this is a Camelot moment to me for Coral Gables. In the past there has been an issue that I took the State Legislatures side against cities on, however, I can tell you, you can be proud as a city. I've been talking with the State Legislators, some of the highest people

over the past week about the oil spill, and we're putting them to shame. I'm going to be possibly telling them about what Coral Gables is doing because they are saying, oh we are the State Legislature, we can do nothing about the oil spill, and we are not going to try, we are not going to have a Special Session, next year, last year, we can't do anything, we are flopping on our back, it's all the federal government. Things don't get done like that. The City of Coral Gables is showing leadership, this is a great thing that you are doing. Commissioner Cabrera I disagree with you on this issue of the need for experts on this panel. First of all, I agree with Commissioner Kerdyk that we do have the expertise in Coral Gables. What is so great about our city; we have people with talent, it's an endless pool almost of talent. We are going to be able to get the thing...I would say that you're right Commissioner Cabrera, Jenny May asked me to mention this, that if we solicit on the resumes as part of this application for this Board, we should be able to find these qualifications, they are in Coral Gables, and moreover, you and I share – we care about global warming, but we flop around, we don't really know what we are doing, and if we don't have an expert here, or if we have to go pay for one which I prefer not to do, let's get somebody who actually does know what they are doing, someone who truly is an expert. Thanks – a Camelot moment for Coral Gables. Thank you.

Mayor Slesnick: Thank you.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you.

Mayor Slesnick: And this is the merry month of May. You all didn't see the movie?- didn't see the play?

Commissioner Cabrera: I'm not from this country.

Mayor Slesnick: Loosen up everybody. Rip, you know the play Camelot, OK, the merry month of May.

Mr. Holmes: Absolutely.

Mayor Slesnick: OK. Thank you. I was only trying to show you we were attuned to what you're saying. Carlos Ruiz de Quevedo.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo: Good morning. Thank you for allowing me to speak, but more importantly thank you for taking on this subject because, yes, we are probably a little late, but it's better to be late than never, and I think that this is a great opportunity. In my case how I got involved in this, I have a personal interest. I have a son in the military and I'll be honest with you, to lose someone would be tremendously hard for our family, but to lose somebody because we have to be somewhere protecting oil so that some people can live extravagantly here would be murder. So I have a personal interest in this, and I've taken that interest to the point that I've put my money where my mouth is. Mayor was at my home which is a green home, as a matter of fact when we talk about green it actually....saving money. My house which was about 2,300 square feet before used to

cost be roughly \$350 a month in electricity, right now we haven't broken a \$150 yet. My last bill was \$133. A number of us architects who are living in these kinds of homes, I think the Mayor went and visited one, that his electric bill has not reached \$40 yet. So there are a lot of savings there, and there is the issue of the environment, but there is also the issue of living sustainably within our environment, and I would like to encourage you to have some professionals in there. I've mentioned to Commissioner Anderson, that yes the issue of LEED certification or LEED AP may not need to be in the qualifications. I think there are many architects that are qualified and engineers that for different reasons may not be part of that organization, just like some architects are not part of the American Institute of Architects, there are reasons why, but the expertise is there. In my case I started dealing with green architecture back in the '70's when I worked for Thurst and Hatcher who was a student of Frank Lloyd Wright, and back then green architecture was called organic, and things have changed but they've pretty much have remained the same; and if we use those same principles we're still going to be doing things that are very effective in our community, but I urge you to do this. Commissioner Withers, I really think it's great that you want this to have this happen quickly, and there are some firms in this town that has national and world wide expertise in the area, but I think the input of the citizens is going to be important, because the issue is we need to have people understand what is green, right now most people don't understand. In my case I'm an architect, I also have been and lead a couple of construction companies, and now I'm in real estate, and I one of the things that I'm working with my colleagues that are architects is the fact of trying to teach people what is green. There are a lot of green words going out there, but the vast majority of people do not know. So there are a number of us working together, my purpose is to communicate with the consumer to teach the consumer as to what is green, and what are the advantages. My message is very simple; I agree with the issue of global warming and I think that it is an important factor and that we all should be taking care of the world for our children and great grandchildren, but a lot of people don't understand that. So my message is very simple. I go and I take the family and I go and say, look in my case I'm saving \$150 a month in electricity to \$200 a month, take that to a 30 year mortgage, that's \$54,000 a year savings; take your \$54,000 and try to pay down your mortgage, that saves you another \$64,000, that's close to \$120,000 that you will save in the life span of the mortgage. Live in a place where you don't need to drive a car; a car cost you about \$8,000 a year, times 30 years that's \$240,000 that you saved. The average college graduate will earn about \$2.1 million in their lifetime. Now think what \$360,000 represents in that overall budget, this is a message that I'm working with, but there are a lot of other messages, and I urge you to continue with this and to get the representation.

Mayor Slesnick: Thank you. One quick question Carlos; are there green certified realtors?

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo: There are some organizations that are doing that, but in reality being an architect when I look at them they are a little bit "Mickey Mouse".

Mayor Slesnick: OK.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo: Right now the U.S. Green Building Council is the leader in that, but there are other organizations, Florida Green Building Coalition and then there are others; the industry is developing, so that's why I'm saying don't tie yourself to just LEED certified individuals because things will change.

Mayor Slesnick: OK. Thank you.

Commissioner Anderson: Fair enough. Thank you very much.

Mayor Slesnick: We have no more speakers on that issue, so we'll close the public hearing.

Commissioner Withers: Can I ask a housekeeping...? These are two year terms, when would the first – say we got this put together in the next six weeks, would the term start now then go two additional years from April or would they have to be reappointed in April, or how would that work?- or May?

Mayor Slesnick: Well we have one Board that we are going to talk about today that has, or we did talk, in our Consent Agenda, we reappointed; we have three year terms that just go three years and they overlap April and they overlap. It's a good question and we need to make it clear in here whether....

City Attorney Hernandez: I think they have to be reappointed next May, I believe.

Commissioner Anderson: Right. So let's say the ordinance takes place, they start getting to work in October they would have to be...

City Attorney Hernandez: I'll double check, but I believe...

Mayor Slesnick: Well, I mean, what's your preference?- let me ask you this, we can make it either way, what's the preference of the Commission?- do you want them appointed every two years in April or May, or do you want them to go for two year consistent term that stretches across city elections, that's the....

Commissioner Withers: I would rather have this first group serve two years and six months or something like that.

Commissioner Anderson: OK, that's a good idea.

Commissioner Cabrera: That's a good idea.

Commissioner Withers: Don't you think that?

Commissioner Cabrera: Yes, yes.

Mayor Slesnick: Well why don't we sunset the ordinance in two years and six months.

Commissioner Anderson: The attorney will double check, but I don't have any problem with it, if that's OK.

City Attorney Hernandez: First and second reading, I'll double check the ordinance on the terms of this because it has to coincide with certain Charter provisions.

Commissioner Anderson: OK.

Commissioner Withers: And one other question regarding this group. I really think we should encourage them to just not look at greening as far as development and things like that; you know, you look at groups like either Starwood or Marriott and they say that unless you want your sheets washed every day, we are going to leave the same sheets on the bed. So I think there cause marketing efforts out there that we should really try to collateralize everything across the board, not just on the development side, but in the doing business as usual side too.

Commissioner Anderson: Absolutely.

Commissioner Cabrera: I think it might be interesting once this Board or task force is put together that we each give them our own summary vision for some of the things that we'd like them to concentrate on, and I think your point is well taken. I've got a quick question, and this is to the Manager; under Section 6, "Administrative Staff Support", it reads that the City Manager shall appoint a staff member to serve as a liaison with and secretary for the task force, and provide services as required by the City Code, article whatever. Mr. Manager, have you made a decision as to who your liaison or secretary to this task force is going to be?

City Manager Salerno: No, not yet.

Commissioner Cabrera: Do you have any inclinations?- I'd like to know before I approve this I'd like to get an understanding from you as you who you see as appropriate from a staffing point.

City Manager Salerno: I will get that to you before second reading...I do not want to...

Commissioner Cabrera: OK, that's fair enough, that's fair enough.

City Manager Salerno:...appropriate person.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK, that makes sense. So I look forward to that in second reading.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Just one comment Mayor. I'm not used to this city not taking leadership positions as far as any issue that we start off on. As Chip pointed out we might be behind several municipalities or states or whatever, but I would expect this city in the very foreseeable future to bridge that gap and make us become that leader that the City of Coral Gables always knows us to be on any issue that we get involved in.

Mayor Slesnick: Well before we get too down on ourselves, let me tell you, as you know serving as President for the Florida League of Mayors, I'm in communications and go to meetings all the time with other cities, and as far as I'm concerned we are probably right in the mix of cities. We've done a lot of the low hanging fruit things, we've addressed light bulbs and light fixtures, we've addressed different things on energy savings, we've addressed public transportation; Mr. Kerdyk, one of the biggest things in greening is people on the trolleys and moving people without parking and driving their cars, and there are a number of other things, and our recycling program is certainly one of the best and most used – bicycle racks.

Commissioner Anderson: Our commitment to landscaping.

Mayor Slesnick: Our commitment to landscaping; Tree City for 22 year, more straight years than any other city in the nation, OK. We are doing a lot of things, they may be low hanging fruit and now it's time to move on and I think that we are right in the mix.

Commissioner Anderson: You're right and I think it's time to recognize this and I think those are the things that will be recognized as part of this group and I think it's important to have that memorialized.

Mayor Slesnick: There are some other cities that have appointed task force or committees on green, but they've not done more than we've done, if not as much, and as you all know we've had, through the Mayor's office, a number of roundtable discussions over the past two years, which has kept people in touch with each other, and have shared information, and so forth, and then that kind of blended right into....

Commissioner Anderson: And they were invited. I know that our City Clerk did include them.

Mayor Slesnick: Right, and that blended right into the effort both of you made, and brought it to a new pinnacle. I really think that's a great stepping stone.

Commissioner Cabrera: I agree, but not to keep bringing back the Traffic Board. Hey listen, before the Traffic Board this city did a lot of great things to tackle traffic, in fact, Commissioner Kerdyk before he become the trolley Commissioner, he was the guy in front of the traffic related issues and Commissioner Withers. You know what this does?- it formalizes the approach, and it creates not only a sense of urgency, but a real priority, and that's what we were missing. So I applaud the efforts of everyone here and let's hopefully move forward with it.

Mayor Slesnick: And I would say too, let me not say it because through the efforts of other groups like the Chamber of Commerce, like the Garden Club, and like Jenny's group, we've had citizen groups, business groups that have worked assiduously on green ideas and green things.

Commissioner Anderson: Sure – and I think one of the key components would be to memorialize all these things.

Mayor Slesnick: Exactly, this is that next step, that next great step. Before we vote though, correct me if I'm wrong, but I would like to ask the Manager and his staff to look at, and the City Attorney, to look at Section 3 to take our comments about making these goals as opposed to absolutes about the people that we appoint, leaving in the goals, and leaving in the names, adding in the Garden Club as one of our goals, and you know, and maybe making a note, I think Carlos makes a good point, maybe making a note that we can say LEED AP engineer, but making a footnote of some kind in there that there may be other certifications that we would consider in lieu of the LEED, and in answer to Commissioner Withers, and the fact that it's a task force, I think the thing is that these people should be appointed for the remaining two years and six months, and then sunset this ordinance so that the next Commission at that stage can look at the task force and reannoint it.

Commissioner Anderson: Reannoint it, reevaluate it, whatever they need to do.

Commissioner Cabrera: The last thing before we vote. I just want to apologize to all of you in the audience, and to those that may be watching at home for not knowing what a LEED professional is, I simply don't know, and I'm not afraid to say when I don't know something. So I apologize for that.

Mayor Slesnick: Well you don't need to apologize. Thank you for being man enough to stand up and say it.

Commissioner Anderson: I will make that motion incorporating all the amendments, suggestions for the second reading.

Commissioner Cabrera: And I accept those modifications to the motion as a second.

Mayor Slesnick: Thank you – very good. Any further comments?

Mr. Clerk

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Cabrera: Yes

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Yes

Commissioner Withers: Yes

Mayor Slesnick: Yes
(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Slesnick: Well thank you all for participating, thanks to everyone here in the audience that as a supporter of green, the environment, good ecology, etc.

Commissioner Anderson: And one last thing. I know that the Manager at the help of one of our staff persons right now who was helpful in putting together the ordinance, I want to recognize Cindy Birdsill.

City Manager Salerno: Cindy was instrumental in working on drafting it.

Mayor Slesnick: Oh, thank you.

[End: 10:42:14 a.m.]